

## AN AUTOMATED CONFIGURATION CATALOG

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### ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A system and method for automating manufacturing processes integrates  
customer-created orders into the manufacturing process. A method allows a  
manufacturer to automate a catalog process. The method includes creating a catalog  
of configurable products including at least one of non-commodity products and  
services and presenting a data file via a communication medium to a purchaser. The  
purchaser may include a customer, a third party acting on behalf of the customer and a  
10 supplier. The data file allows the purchaser to configure the products independent of  
a third party provided configuration tool by including manipulable parameters that  
enable configuration of non-commodity product or service. For example, the  
manipulable parameters may include upgrades, downgrades and swapping of  
components. Further, the data file is configured to be incorporated into a procurement  
15 system, the data file providing a catalog of configurable components.